

REMARKS

Claims in the case are 1-11, upon entry of this amendment. Claims 5, 7 and 10 have been amended, and Claims 12-26 have been cancelled without prejudice herein. No claims have been added under this amendment.

Entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested as it serves to cancel rejected claims and place the remaining allowed claims in better condition for allowance in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. In addition, the present amendment is not deemed to raise further material issues as to patentability.

Claims 7, 10, 19 and 23 stand objected to on page 2 of the Office Action of February 5, 2004. These objections are respectfully traversed with regard to the amendments herein and the following remarks.

Claims 7 and 10 have been amended herein in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions on page 2 of the Office Action. Claims 19 and 23 have been cancelled herein. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's helpful comments relative to Claims 7, 10, 19 and 23.

In light of the amendments herein and the preceding remarks, the objections to Claims 7, 10, 19 and 23 are deemed to have been overcome. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

Claims 15-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Claims 15-26 have been cancelled without prejudice herein. As such, the present rejection is deemed to be moot.

Claims 5 and 17-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed in light of the amendments herein and the following remarks.

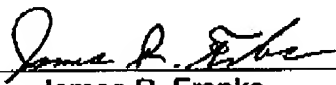
Claim 5 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions on page 3 of the Office Action of 5 February 2004. Claims 17-26 have been cancelled without prejudice herein.

In light of the amendments herein and the preceding remarks, the present rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph are deemed to have been overcome. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of 1-4 and 6-11 as indicated on the Office Action Summary sheet. In light of the amendments herein and the preceding remarks, Claim 5 is also deemed to be in condition for allowance.

In light of the amendments herein and the preceding remarks, Applicants' presently pending claims are deemed to meet all the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, and to define an invention that is unanticipated, unobvious and hence, patentable. Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all of the presently pending claims (*i.e.*, Claims 1-11) is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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